

item veto, the other question by them is what about the notch.

Mr. Speaker, let us today support this motion and get on with our work in conference.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS].

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague yielding, and I rise frankly just to suggest to my colleagues a word of caution that I raised with my friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], 17 years ago when we were freshmen, about this matter. I agree very strongly with those who are concerned about our deficit and the importance of moving toward a balanced budget.

Having said that, I feel very strongly about local government and State running a lot more than the Federal Government, but there are reasons to have a Federal Government, including our national defense. From time to time in the history of this country we have tended to be penny-wise and pound-foolish in that area. As peace looms on the horizon, many an administration becomes very cautious about spending money in this area. I would rue the day that a President, for example, chose to use the line-item veto to strike the B-2, for example, so critical to our future ability to project peace in the world. So a word of caution, my friends, as we move forward with the streamroller that seems to be heading toward either a direct line or a cliff.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. BARRETT].

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion, and I compliment the gentlewoman from Illinois for putting forth this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time that this body get on with the work that the American people want us to do, and that is to accomplish the line-item veto legislation. When this legislation was first introduced in January, and it is a piece of legislation that I have supported both in this Congress and in the last Congress, I cautioned my constituents, saying that I feared what we would see is we would see quick action in the House, perhaps separate action by the Senate, and then there would be serious delay in getting the two bodies together, and unfortunately that is clearly what has happened up to this point.

But now it is time for us to get to work. Let us do the work that the American people want us to do, let us sit down as conferees, get the differences between the two houses ironed out and give the President the authority to get rid of pork barrel spending and special interest tax breaks.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take just this moment to thank the ranking member of the Committee on Government Re-

form and Oversight, the chairman, for his assistance in this matter and for the spirit of cooperation that he has always dealt with the minority on this particular matter. He has done so repeatedly, and he has always been there to discuss these very important issues with us.

I want to also thank the chairman of the Committee on Rules who, I am glad to say, is still a very avid fan of the Chicago Bears and, along with him, I too hope that we are successful this term.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois, the ranking member. We may not always agree, but we are always very civil and she has always been very cooperative in accomplishing what needs to be accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I would just point out again that this measure did have broad bipartisan support when it came before the House in February. I am pleased that we come out of this motion today again united, with bipartisan support, in moving forward and trying to address the issues with the other body.

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the motion to instruct conferees, which seeks to apply line-item veto legislation to all fiscal year 1996 spending bills.

I am pleased to see House leadership appoint conferees today for H.R. 2, the line-item veto legislation. This move is long overdue. On February 6, the House approved H.R. 2, the line-item veto bill, by the overwhelming majority of 294 to 134. Line-item veto was a key component of the Contract With America. The Senate passed a line-item veto bill in March. However, it is almost 6 months later, and we are finally getting around to appointing conferees.

As a strong supporter of line-item veto, I became increasingly distressed this summer to hear statements from leadership that line-item veto was dead for the year. In an effort to increase pressure to revive this bill this year, I attempted to offer an amendment to each of the five remaining appropriations bills to apply the provisions of H.R. 2 to those individual appropriations bills. My concern was that even if we passed line-item veto this year, a delayed agreement would mean that over \$500 billion in fiscal year 1996 spending would not be subject to line-item veto.

When I was denied the opportunity to offer this amendment, I then introduced a House resolution on the last day before recess calling on House leadership to appoint conferees. This resolution was cosponsored by 66 Members of the House. My resolution also stated the sense of the House that we should not send appropriations conference reports to the President unless we took steps to apply line-item veto to such conference reports.

The motion to instruct conferees goes to the heart of this issue. The motion instructs conferees to insist that line-item veto be applicable to any current or subsequent fiscal year appropriations bills—which would include all 1996 spending bills. It is my understanding

that leadership will accept this motion. I applaud this constructive move, and again, support the action we are taking today to begin the conference process on line-item veto.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge that finding an agreement between the House and Senate will not be an easy chore. While there is a clear majority in both the House and Senate in favor of some form of line-item veto or enhanced rescission, there are honest disagreements over the best form of such legislation.

However, I have never understood why the potential difficulty of reaching agreement should prevent us from even trying. That is why I have pushed so hard to begin the process. It is my hope that we can move expeditiously to reach an agreement and send a line-item veto bill to the President for his signature into law.

However, the appointment of conferees and the motion to instruct still provide no assurance that line-item veto will apply to 1996 spending bills. Therefore, I reiterate my call to apply line-item veto provisions to each spending bill that we send to the President this year—and to urge that we make every effort to make sure that every dollar of discretionary spending is subject to the fiscal scrutiny of Presidential authority to veto individual items of pork barrel or unnecessary spending. If we can do so, we can help restore taxpayer faith that their tax dollars are spent wisely.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the motion to instruct.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE].

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. CLINGER, SOLOMON, BUNNING, DREIER, BLUTE, and Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois and Mr. SABO and Mr. BEILENSON.

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 2126, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, and that I may be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2126, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that further